

Applicants: Evers et al.  
Application No.: 10/589,796  
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**Listing of the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, as follows:

Claims 1-70 (canceled)

Claim 71. (New): A kit, in combination, comprising:

a container filled with a single portion of a substance, comprising a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam, wherein the container is provided with identification means corresponding to the substance contained in the container so as to allow automatic identification of the container, and

a dispensing apparatus comprising receiving means for receiving the container, which apparatus is adapted to open the container and comprises identification recognition means for automatically identifying the container and the substance therein.

Claim 72. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the dispensing apparatus comprises compression means for compressing the container body and wherein the sealing seam of the container on a predetermined location has a weak spot such that the seal breaks at that weak spot upon pressurizing the content of the container by compressing the container body.

Claim 73. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the receiving means of the dispensing apparatus have a compression chamber with a variable volume for receiving the container body, a stop face engaging the back side of the circumferential rim and a covering lid with a supporting face for engaging the cover sheet of the container.

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Claim 74. (New): Kit according to claim 73, wherein the covering lid is provided with a recess arranged such that when the covering lid is closed it is positioned over a part of the sealing seam, so as to allow the cover of the container to bulge out into the recess upon compression of the container body and the sealing seam to break.

Claim 75. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the receiving means is adapted to receive containers with different body sizes.

Claim 76. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the receiving means is adapted to hold the circumferential rim of the container during dispensing of the substance.

Claim 77. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the receiving means are provided with ejection means for ejecting a container from the receiving means.

Claim 78. (New): Kit according to claim 76, wherein the ejection means comprise one or more ejection rods, the ejection rods being movable with respect to the stop face towards a position wherein they project with respect to the stop face and engage the circumferential rim of the container.

Claim 79. (New): Kit according to claim 78, wherein the ejection rods are stationary and the stop face is movable with respect to the ejection rods between a front position near the covering lid and a rear position distant from the covering lid.

Claim 80. (New): Kit according to claim 72, wherein the compression chamber is provided with a piston coupled to drive means, which piston is adapted to engage the container body.

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Claim 81. (New): Kit according to claim 80, wherein the drive means comprise a screw spindle and an electric motor.

Claim 82. (New): Kit according to claim 80, wherein the drive means comprise pneumatic means.

Claim 83. (New): Kit according to claim 80, wherein the drive means comprise hydraulic means.

Claim 84. (New): Kit according to claim 80, wherein the drive means are adapted to be hand driven.

Claim 85. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the dispensing apparatus comprises treatment means for treating the substance dispensed from the container.

Claim 86. (New): Kit according to claim 85, wherein the treatment means comprise liquid dispensing means for a liquid to be mixed with the substance from the container.

Claim 87. (New): Kit according to claim 86, wherein the liquid dispensing means for liquid comprise means for dispensing cooled water and/or hot water and/or water with ambient temperature.

Claim 88. (New): Kit according to claim 86, wherein the dispensing means for liquid comprise means for dispensing carbonated water.

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Claim 89. (New): Kit according to claim 88, wherein the means for dispensing carbonated water comprise in combination a connecting arrangement for connecting a CO2 bottle to the dispensing apparatus and a CO2 bottle.

Claim 90. (New): Kit according to claim 89, wherein the CO2 bottle is provided with a closing valve and the connecting arrangement is provided with connecting means for opening the closing valve.

Claim 91. (New): Kit according to claim 90, wherein the closing valve has a valve housing with a circumferential flange and the connecting means has engagement means for engaging said flange such that in a connected state a rotation of the valve housing with respect to the connecting means is prevented.

Claim 92. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the dispensing apparatus has dispensing means for different sorts of water, e.g. hot water, cooled water and carbonated water, which are positioned such that the different sorts of water can be dispensed at one point in a serving container like e.g. a cup or a bottle.

Claim 93. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the identification means are applied to the cover sheet of the container.

Claim 94. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the identification means are applied to the preformed deformable body.

Claim 95. (New): Kit according to claim 94, wherein the identification means are visual identification means, for example a bar code.

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Claim 96. (New): Kit according to claim 94, wherein the identification means comprise electronic identification means.

Claim 97. (New): Kit according to claim 96, wherein the electronic identification means comprise a resonance circuit.

Claim 98. (New): Kit according to claim 96, wherein the electronic identification means comprise a transponder.

Claim 99. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the identification recognition means comprise optical scanning means which are arranged in the receiving means of the dispensing apparatus such that the bottom surface of a container can be scanned.

Claim 100. (New): Kit according to claim 99, wherein the optical scanning means comprise a laser scanner.

Claim 101. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the cover sheet is made of foil material.

Claim 102. (New): Kit according to claim 71, wherein the cover sheet comprises a multilayer material.

Claim 103. (New): A kit, in combination, comprising:  
a container filled with a single portion of a substance, comprising a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam, wherein the

container is provided with identification means corresponding to the substance contained in the container so as to allow automatic identification of the container, and

a dispensing apparatus comprising receiving means for receiving the container, which apparatus is adapted to open the container and comprises identification recognition means for automatically identifying the container and the substance therein,

wherein the receiving means of the dispensing apparatus have a compression chamber with a variable volume for receiving the container body, a stop face engaging the back side of the circumferential rim and a covering lid with a supporting face for engaging the cover sheet of the container, which covering lid is provided with a recess arranged such that when the covering lid is closed it is positioned over a part of the sealing seam, so as to allow the cover of the container to bulge out into the recess upon compression of the container body and the sealing seam to break.

Claim 104. (New): Container for containing a substance, comprising a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam, wherein the circumferential rim has a dispensing part with a dispensing channel formed in it by a depression which is covered by the cover sheet, the dispensing channel being closed off from the filling cavity by the circumferential sealing seam.

Claim 105. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the circumferential sealing seam at the location between the channel and the filling cavity is weakened, e.g. by a decreased seam width, such that upon pressurizing the content of the container by compressing the container body the seal breaks at that location and a passage is formed between the cover sheet and dispensing part of the rim so as to allow substance to pass through the passage from the cavity into the channel.

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Claim 106. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the dispensing part of the rim comprises an extending tab in which the dispensing channel is formed.

Claim 107. (New): Container according to claim 106, wherein the channel has an end at the edge of the extending tab.

Claim 108. (New): Container according to claim 107, wherein the end at the edge of the extending tab is open.

Claim 109. (New): Container according to claim 107, wherein the end of the channel at the edge of the extending tab is sealed.

Claim 110. (New): Container for containing a substance, comprising a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam, wherein the circumferential rim has a flat dispensing part which is covered by the cover sheet, which cover sheet is sealed to the dispensing part by at least two outwardly directed sealing seams which extend at a distance from one another from the circumferential sealing seam to the edge of the dispensing part.

Claim 111. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the circumferential sealing seam at the location between the two outwardly directed sealing seams has a weakened portion, e.g. by a decreased seam width, such that upon pressurizing the content of the container by exerting a compression force on the wall the seal breaks at that location and a dispensing passage

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is formed between the two outwardly directed sealing seams, the cover sheet and the surface of the dispensing part.

Claim 112. (New): Container according to claim 111, wherein the weakened portion of the circumferential sealing seam at the location between the two outwardly directed sealing seams has a pointed portion of which the point is directed towards the filling cavity such that upon compression of the container the seal starts to break at the pointed portion.

Claim 113. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the outwardly directed sealing seams are substantially parallel.

Claim 114. (New): Container according to claims 110, wherein the dispensing part is shaped as an extending tab.

Claim 115. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the dispensing part has a part near its edge with a decreasing thickness towards the edge.

Claim 116. (New): Container according to claim 115, wherein the thickness of the dispensing part at the edge is substantially equal to the thickness of the cover sheet.

Claim 117. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein a gripping tab is provided at the circumferential rim.

Claim 118. (New): Container according to claim 117, wherein the gripping tab is situated diametrically opposite the extending tab.



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Claim 119. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the container wall is formed of a plastic material, preferably polystyrene.

Claim 120. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the container wall is formed of a metal.

Claim 121. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the cover sheet is made of foil material.

Claim 122. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the cover sheet is made of a multilayer material.

Claim 123. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the cover sheet is preformed.

Claim 124. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the container body is formed by vacuum forming and/or thermo forming.

Claim 125. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the deformable body comprises a bottom and a side wall extending upwardly from the bottom.

Claim 126. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the container body is corrugated so as to facilitate compression of the container.

Claim 127. (New): Container according to claim 110, wherein the circumferential rim is provided with one or more positioning protrusions formed by a depression in the rim.

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Claim 128. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein a gripping tab is provided at the circumferential rim.

Claim 129. (New): Container according to claim 128, wherein the gripping tab is situated diametrically opposite the extending tab.

Claim 130. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the container wall is formed of a plastic material, preferably polystyrene.

Claim 131. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the container wall is formed of a metal.

Claim 132. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the cover sheet is made of foil material.

Claim 133. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the cover sheet is made of a multilayer material.

Claim 134. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the cover sheet is preformed.

Claim 135. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the container body is formed by vacuum forming and/or thermo forming.

Claim 136. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the deformable body comprises a bottom and a side wall extending upwardly from the bottom.

Claim 137. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the container body is corrugated so as to facilitate compression of the container.

Claim 138. (New): Container according to claim 104, wherein the circumferential rim is provided with one or more positioning protrusions formed by a depression in the rim.

Claim 139. (New): Container for containing a substance, comprising a deformable body defining a filling cavity, the body comprising two preformed body shells each defining a part of the filling cavity, each body shell having an integral planar circumferential rim at the edge of the shell, wherein the circumferential rims of the shells are attached to one another with a sealing seam, wherein the sealed together circumferential rims at a portion of the circumference form a dispensing part with a dispensing channel, the dispensing channel being closed off from the filling cavity by a sealing seam.

Claim 140. (New): Container for containing a substance, comprising a deformable body defining a filling cavity, the body comprising two preformed body shells each defining a part of the filling cavity, each body shell having an integral planar circumferential rim at the edge of the shell, wherein the circumferential rims of the shells are attached to one another with a sealing seam so as to form a circumferential rim of the container, wherein the circumferential rims at a portion of the circumference each have a dispensing part half, wherein the dispensing part halves are sealed together by at least two outwardly directed sealing seams which extend at a distance from one another from the circumferential sealing seam to the edge of the dispensing part.

Claim 141. (New): Method for manufacturing containers for containing a substance, comprising a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing

seam, wherein the circumferential rim has a dispensing part with a dispensing channel formed in it by a depression which is covered by the cover sheet, the dispensing channel being closed off from the filling cavity by the circumferential sealing seam, in which method comprises:

a flat sheet is placed in a vacuum or thermo forming apparatus with a forming die, and multiple container bodies are formed simultaneously in the sheet by vacuum forming the filling cavities into the die,

the sheet with the filling cavity is placed in a filling machine and filled with substance, a covering sheet is sealed over the sheet with the container bodies, and

the sheet with the closed containers is placed in a punch machine, where the perimeter of the circumferential rim of the body is formed by punching out waste material between the containers.

Claim 142. (New): Method according to claim 141, wherein in the vacuum or thermo forming machine also dispensing channels of the containers are depressed in an extension tab which is subsequently to be formed in the punch machine.

Claim 143. (New): Method for manufacturing containers for containing a substance, comprising a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam, wherein the circumferential rim has a flat dispensing part which is covered by the cover sheet, which cover sheet is sealed to the dispensing part by at least two outwardly directed sealing seams which extend at a distance from one another from the circumferential sealing seam to the edge of the dispensing part, in which method comprises:

a flat sheet is placed in a vacuum or thermo forming apparatus with a forming die, and multiple container bodies are formed simultaneously in the sheet by vacuum forming the filling cavities into the die,

the sheet with the filling cavity is placed in a filling machine and filled with substance, a covering sheet is sealed over the sheet with the container bodies, and the sheet with the closed containers is placed in a punch machine, where the perimeter of the circumferential rim of the body is formed by punching out waste material between the containers.

Claim 144. (New): Method according to claim 143, wherein by the vacuum or thermo forming machine positioning protrusions are depressed in the circumferential rim, which is subsequently to be formed in the punch machine.

Claim 145. (New): Method according to claim 143, wherein the cover sheet is manufactured from foil material.

Claim 146. (New): Method according to claim 143, wherein the cover sheet is manufactured with identification means.

Claim 147. (New): Method according to claim 143, wherein identification means are applied to the container bodies by in-mold labeling in the vacuum or thermo forming apparatus.

Claim 148. (New): Method according to claim 143, wherein the identification means are printed on the container bodies directly after filling and sealing them.

Claim 149. (New): Method for opening a container containing a substance, comprising a deformable body (made of sheet material) defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam,

the method comprising the steps of:

holding the container,

engaging the cover sheet with a support surface provided with a recess and adapted to support the cover sheet except at the position of the recess, wherein the recess is positioned at least over a part of the circumferential sealing seam, and

compressing the container body whereby the substance is pressurized and the cover sheet bulges out into the recess such that the sealing seam is broken at the location where the bulge is formed resulting in the container being open.

Claim 150. (New): Method for opening a container containing a substance, comprising a deformable body (made of sheet material) defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam,

the method comprising the steps of:

holding the container,

engaging the cover sheet with a support surface provided with a recess and adapted to support the cover sheet except at the position of the recess, wherein the recess is positioned over at least a part of the circumferential sealing seam, and

heating the sealing seam at a position facing the recess, whereby the sealing seam is locally weakened,

compressing the container body whereby the substance is pressurized and the cover sheet bulges out into the recess such that the sealing seam is broken at the location where the bulge is formed resulting in the container being open.

Claim 151. (New): Method for preparation of a drink, wherein  
a flat sheet is placed in a vacuum or thermo forming apparatus with a forming die, and  
multiple container bodies are formed simultaneously in the sheet by vacuum or thermo forming  
the filling cavities into the die,

the sheet with the filling cavity is placed in a filling machine and filled with substance,  
a sheet of covering material is sealed over the sheet with the container bodies,

the sheet with the closed containers is placed in a punch machine, where the perimeter of  
the circumferential rim of the body is formed by punching out waste material between the  
containers,

the container is placed in a drink dispensing apparatus comprising receiving means for  
receiving and holding the container,

the cover sheet is engaged with a support surface provided with a recess and adapted to  
support the cover sheet except at the position of the recess, wherein the recess is positioned at  
least over a part of the circumferential sealing seam,

the container is identified by the dispensing apparatus such that the apparatus knows  
which substance is contained in the container,

a serving container is placed in the drink dispensing apparatus,

the container body is compressed by the dispensing apparatus whereby the substance is  
pressurized and the cover sheet bulges out into the recess such that the sealing seam is broken at  
the location where the bulge is formed resulting in the container being open,

the substance is dispensed out of the container directly into the serving container,

mixing fluid, in particular water, is dispensed by the drink dispensing apparatus into the  
serving container and mixed with the substance resulting in a servable drink, and

the container is removed from the dispensing apparatus.

Claim 152. (New): Serving bottle usable with a dispensing apparatus comprising  
receiving means for receiving a container filled with a single portion of a substance, comprising

a preformed deformable body defining a filling cavity which body has an opening and an integral planar circumferential rim surrounding said opening, which opening is closed by a cover sheet which is sealed to the circumferential rim by means of a circumferential sealing seam, wherein said container is provided with identification means corresponding to the substance contained in the container and said apparatus is adapted to open the container and comprises identification recognition means for automatically identifying the container and the substance therein.

Claim 153. (New): CO2 bottle for use in a dispensing apparatus with dispensing means for liquid comprising means for dispensing carbonated water, which comprise a connecting arrangement for connecting a CO2 bottle to the dispensing apparatus.

Claim 154. (New): Method for cleaning a dispensing apparatus comprising receiving means for receiving a container filled with a single portion of a substance, wherein said container is provided with identification means corresponding to the substance contained in the container and said apparatus is adapted to open the container and comprises identification recognition means for automatically identifying the container and the substance therein, the apparatus further comprising liquid dispensing means for a liquid to be mixed with the substance from the container,

in which method a source of cleaning fluid is connected to the liquid dispensing means of the dispensing apparatus and a dummy container, provided with an identification means, is positioned in the receiving means of the dispensing apparatus, wherein a cleaning program is run on the dispensing apparatus initiated by the identification recognition means upon recognition of the identification means of the dummy container.